FCI's failure to maintain buffer stocks

144. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India failed to maintain buffer stocks in remote and inaccessible regions ensuring under nourished to get food at subsidized rates; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to break the Food Corporation of India into several autonomous Corporations to ensure proper procurement, storage, transportation and distribution of foodgrains to the poors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. Food Corporation of India is holding adequate stocks of foodgrains in various regions throughout the country.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

Shortage of godowns and staff for procurement in Orissa

145. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FCI is not able to procure paddy and rice in Orissa because of shortage of godowns and staff;

(b) as per the yardstick, what is total staff resigned from FCI, Orissa Region and the present number of officers and staff in position; and

(c) the number of FCI godowns and capacity thereof as per the requirement and the present capacity owned by FCI in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. In Orissa, FCI and

Government agencies do not procure paddy. However, levy rice is being procured in accordance with the Levy Control order issued by the State Government.

(b) The position in respect of Orissa is as under:—

	Sanctioned Strength	Staff in Position
Category-I	23	17
Category-II	254	170
Category-III	1142	713
Category-IV	532	559
TOTAL	1951	1459

(c) As on 31.12.2000, the total number of FCI godowns in Orissa is 53, with a total storage capacity of 4.98 Lakh tonnes (owned and hired). However, FCI owned godowns are 22, with a total storage capacity of 2.68 lakh tonnes.

Number of Hindi Personnel

146. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMBER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/ Assistants created in his Ministry and in allied PSUs/attached and subordinate offices for propagation of Hindi as official language and encouragement of Hindi correspondence;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant and since when; and

(c) the reasons therefore and the steps taken to fill up such posts urgently?